

The Sun.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1881.

Announcements Today.

Athens Park Lectures—La Vierge et la Mort.
Athen's Institute—Inductive Education.
Book's the tree—Milton's sonnets.
Bennett's Magazine—Monthly and Annual.
Elipses Open House—The Novels.
Fitz-Jones' Club—Annual Meeting.
Grand Opera House—Long, Parker and French.
Hayes' N.Y. Girls' Grade—The White.
Hayes' Girls' High School—William and Anna.
Hayes' Girls' Assn.—Theatre—Miss Foyen.
Hayes' Girls' Assn.—Theatre—The Professor.
New Theatre—Cochin, the Major, Moxon.
Standard Theatre—Cochin, the Major, Moxon.
State Fair—Prizes—Moxon and Co.
Union Square Theatre—Forrest, M. S., &
Winton Theatre—100 Miles Away.

Advertising Rates.

Ordinary Advertisements, per Acre, Inside	\$0.40
Large type or cuts (Acre measurement per line)	0.80
Business Notices, before marriage and death, per line	0.75
Special Notices, marriages and deaths, per line	0.50
Commercial Interests, per line	0.75
Reading Notices, with "Adv." 1st or 2d Number	1.50
Reading Notices, with "Adv." 1st or 2d Number	1.50
In Sunday edition same rates as above.	

The Religion of the White House.

Though the son of a Baptist minister who was strong in his devotion to the peculiar tenets of his denomination, President ARTHUR is himself an attendant on the services of the Episcopal Church. When he was in New York, he was one of the parishioners of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, and in Washington he attended on Sunday St. John's Church, and will probably worship there during his term as President.

It is long since the White House was occupied by an Episcopalian. That church, indeed, has counted few of our Presidents among its disciples. For many years Methodism was the religion of the White House, and it has taken great pride in the circumstance. GRANT is a Methodist, at least nominally, and during his term he did much to push the fortunes of his pastor, the Rev. Dr. NEWMAN. So much prominence was given to that denomination while he was President that some foreigners spoke of the Methodist as the State church of the country. It was not that, certainly, but it assumed a certain political importance, for it is very strong in numbers, very clannish, and was not indifferent to worldly consequence it gained by the support of the President.

When the Fraudulent HAYES got into the White House he also brought Methodism with him. His wife is very strong in that faith, and she took pains to make her religious preferences known. If not conspicuous the HAYES family were regular attendants on a Methodist church at Washington, and Mrs. HAYES tried to enforce at the White House the strictest notions of the strictest of that sect concerning social morals and social conduct generally. It mattered not that foreign diplomats looked on in polite surprise; she was determined that the ways of the White House should be such as would receive the approval of the class leaders of her little Methodist church in Ohio.

President GARFIELD was a Campbellite Baptist, or one of the Disciples, as they are called. It is a sect which is little known at the East, but is strong in parts of the West and South. He was even at one time a preacher of the body, which was founded by his grandfather.

Successful as the SONG-KOOL experiment has been from a commercial point of view—and there is no reason why, with good government, the rich valley of the Mekong should not attain to its old level of population and productivity—the French have long had their eyes fastened on a more tempting section of the Annamite empire. A glance at the map will show that the whole eastern coast of Farther India is bordered by a range of mountains nearly parallel with the China Sea and its arm, the Gulf of Tonquin. The southern and much narrower half of this coast strip constitutes Cochinchina, of which, as we have said, the French have already absorbed the most fertile part. The northern and broader moiety of this coast tract, lying between the mountains and the Gulf of Tonquin, is valuable not only from its own natural resources, but from its geographical relation to the Celestial Empire. It possesses excellent harbors, and comprises the valley of several navigable rivers, the largest of which, the Song-kool, offers an unimpeded passage for vessels to the heart of Yunnan. By one of the Song-kool's tributaries, indeed, the Hukking merchants might ascend within a few miles of it, which could not actually reach a branch of the Yang-tse-kiang, which is, we need not say, the great commercial highway of western and south-central China. The navigability of the Song-kool is not assumed upon the authority of native reports; it has been conclusively demonstrated by a French adventurer who contracted to furnish arms to the route to the Viceroy of Yunnan.

Of course, however, the mere religious preferences or religious associations of the President are a matter of small importance, so far as the people in general are concerned. Whether he is a Baptist, a Methodist, or an Episcopalian is not the question; but whether he is really governed by religion as principle, and is otherwise a fit man for the place,

Constitutional Changes.

Proposals to amend the State Constitution have been very frequent of late years. This year five amendments are to be considered in the fall elections. The mode pursued in this State of amending the Constitution requires that notice of any change desired shall be given before an election, so that Senators and Assemblies may be chosen with reference to their views on the subject.

One of the amendments proposed this year relates only to local courts in the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Buffalo. The others present questions of general interest. Briefly stated these are: 1. Shall the canals be restricted in incurring debts? 2. Shall the Supreme Court be enlarged?

As matters now stand, the canals are the property of the State; the boats passing through them are required to pay tolls, averaging about one cent per bushel upon cargoes of grain, which is the chief commodity carried. These tolls, after current expenses are paid, form a fund for paying the debt incurred by the State in building or buying the canals. At present, repairs and enlargements are needed; hence one amendment proposes to allow a convenient proportion of the tolls to be expended for these purposes, instead of keeping them rigorously for the payment of the debt. In strong contrast to this is another amendment which proposes to make navigation free; that is, hereafter boats shall no longer be required to pay tolls; but the expense of supervision and repairs and the payment of the debt shall be met, as other expenses of the State are, by taxation.

The latest public discovery is that President GARFIELD's aged mother is not included among the beneficiaries of the GARFIELD fund. The venerable lady is over eighty years old; she is on the verge of the grave; she has been always used to a life far more frugal than that which she has now ample means of enjoying; she longed to change the profusion of the White House for the simplicity of Mentor; but above all, she has a son's widow and her grandchildren, who, notwithstanding the most ordinary affection, would esteem it a privilege to comfort her few remaining days with money which can procure in that narrow circle of comfort that aid people in their distress. But these reflections have not prevented the sending of a formal ultimatum to the French president that the mother of the President is not specifically mentioned by name in the fund which the widow of the President will have at her disposal.

It is true that China has for centuries held the same shadowy suzerainty over Tonquin that the Ottoman Sultan has exercised over Turkey. But Turkey had no interest in the Bosphorus from a commercial point of view, whereas China would benefit far more than any European power if the products of its rich but isolated province of Yunnan could find an easy access to a market. This is unlikely, therefore, that France would encounter much resistance from the Pukin Government in its determination to open

the one channel which would bring from thirty to fifty million subjects of the Middle Kingdom in contact with the sea.

Resignation.

In regard to the inevitable has always been looked upon as praiseworthy; and accordingly, the Republicans as a whole, and that section of the party known as Administration Republicans, are worthy of all praise. With the elevation of Gen. ARTHUR to the office of President, the resignation of the Senators from New York, and the death of the Senator from Rhode Island, the Republicans say the control of the Senate passes into the hands of the Democrats. Powerless of themselves to prevent such a change, they began all over the country to make sentimental appeals to the sympathies of the Democrats, beseeching them to refrain from taking what would come to them by right until after the admission of the new Senators, when their sympathies would not be so much needed. With the exception of Senator BICKERSTAFF of Kentucky, who for a time appeared to be under the influence of this new political religion, but who now, we believe, feels in being a backslacker, the Democrats listened to this proposition in grim silence; and the Republicans are now calmly awaiting their fate in the Senate without a murmur.

The mid of the half-breeds of GARFIELD Republicans have undergone a similar change. When Gen. ARTHUR became President they lost their advantage over the Slaveholders, whom they had opposed with such unshaking bitterness; and straightforwardly they surrounded the President with advice as to the propriety of his keeping the present Cabinet in office and maintaining unchanged all the political affiliations of his predecessor. But before the late President was buried, they lost their advantage over the Slaveholders, whom they had opposed with such unshaking bitterness; and straightforwardly they surrounded the President with advice as to the propriety of his keeping the present Cabinet in office and maintaining unchanged all the political affiliations of his predecessor. 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